



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

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Partnership gets equipment to Warfighters better, faster, cheaper

A partnership between the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise and Armor Holdings Inc.'s Aerospace and Defense Group could result in more work for the GSIE's six facilities across the country.

A basic ordering agreement between GSIE and Armor Holdings will allow the group to obtain products and services offered by GSIE industrial facilities under a single contract, rather than separate contracts for each project.

"The business acumen that we bring and that comes from the commercial world can be married up in a much better relationship than we have had in the past. Our ability to partner with a world class company means more work for the GSIE and more capability for Soldiers in the field," said Maj. Gen. N. Ross Thompson III, TACOM commanding general.

The first order from Armor Holdings is for \$4.4 million to produce steel panels for the Heavy Expanded Mobility Transport Truck, the Palletized Loading System, the Heavy Equipment Transporter and the M915 series of trucks.

Thermal test facility coming to Soldier Systems Center

Construction of a joint-use thermal test facility at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center is scheduled to begin January 2005. The opening is set for 2006.

The state-of-the-art 12,500 square-foot facility will house a propane fuel cell and laboratories for evaluating the effect of flame or thermal threats, and assist in the development of improved clothing, materials and equipment to protect individual Warfighters.

The 2004 Defense Appropriation Act authorized the installation's Natick Soldier Center \$5.4 million to build the facility, which will include a conference room and commons, and for the first time, enable testing of complete clothing ensembles in a consolidated location.

"We have always had a need for this type of test facility," said Joel Carlson, a research chemist on the Materials Science Team, who along with Calvin Lee, an aerospace engineer on the Airdrop Technology Team, are overseeing the building project. "Flame and thermal threats are increasing, and it's more cost-effective to have everything in one facility."

Tobyhanna employee earns patent

Operating a forklift involves a lot more than lifting pallets and driving them around. Hours of constant direction changes and twisting to see where you're going can stress the spine.

When an employee at Tobyhanna Army Depot aggravated a previous injury while twisting around in 1999, Robert Pollish, a materials handler in the depot's Automatic Storage and Retrieval System, decided there must be a way to eliminate that type of movement while operating a forklift. "If one person is injured, then there are probably similar injuries," he said, noting the widespread use of forklifts.

Pollish used his artistic talent and mechanical background from plumbing and sheet metal experience to draw illustrations for a forklift that has two steering wheels and a rotating seat.

His invention allows a forklift operator to face in either direction while driving, eliminating the need to twist around. The seat automatically turns and the control panel presents itself to the driver.

Pollish submitted his idea in 2000, beginning a lengthy patent search to prevent copying a patent already awarded. He was awarded the patent in January, and the patent assistance business he works with is finding a manufacturer to build the prototype.